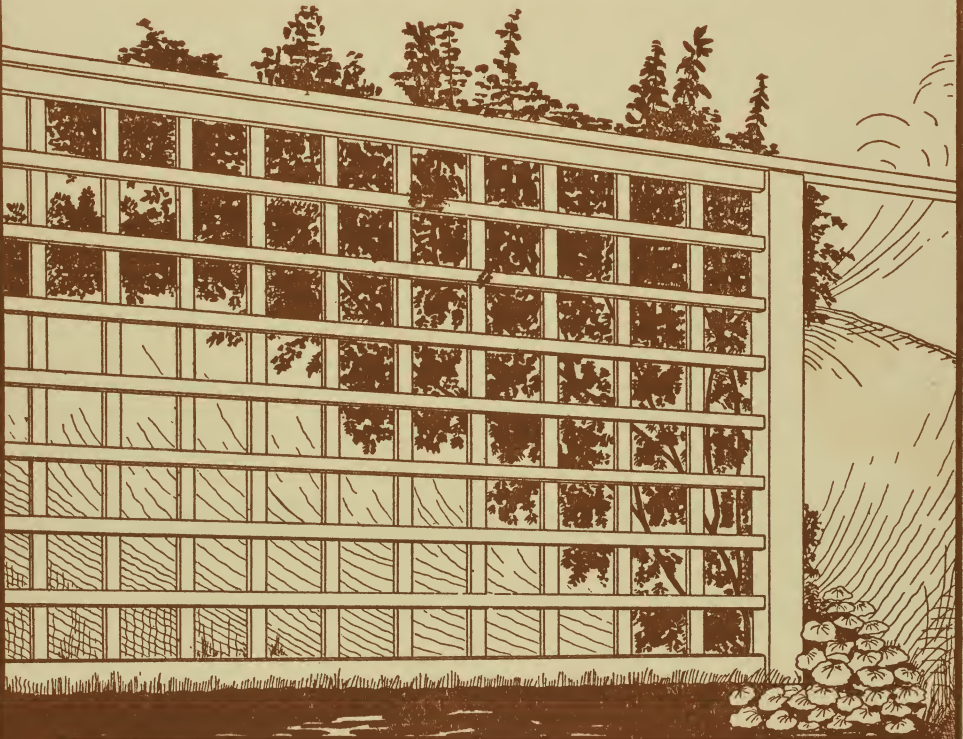


# California Garden



## IN THIS NUMBER

OLD LADY'S GARDEN

MISS SESSIONS VISITS WILLIAM ROBINSON

BERRIED SHRUBS

SYNTHETIC STABLE MANURE

NOV. 1925

TEN CENTS

# LILY BULBS READY

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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association  
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No. 5

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## THE OLD LADY'S GARDEN

By L. A. Blochman.

How many times we have passed by the old lady's garden and day after day, week after week and year after year found her daily and faithfully working and plodding, raking and spading, irrigating and planting. The old garden like the old lady is not quite as beautiful as it used to be. The shrubs are growing old and woody. The trees are growing tall and shade the spots where formerly the sun shone. The ground is full of the roots of vines that have grown so rank that they seem forever out of the control of the old lady.

The plants are now crowding each other and seem to vie as to which shall be the fittest and which shall survive. Yes, as we daily note the decline of both the garden and the worker, we pause to reminisce.

Today the old lady appears to be wrapt in thought and we stop to talk with her. "Yes, my garden is a great comfort and solace to me. It not only keeps me in the open air, gives me the requisite exercise I need, gives me the pleasure and joy of seeing things grow, but it brings to me memories of the past."

Will you walk with me and see my old garden, then perhaps you may excuse some of the seeming incongruities and may perchance see some of the reasons for some of the plants being where they are. "Yes, mine is not only a garden of plants and flowers, it is also a garden of memories. It carries me back many years. It makes me think better of the human race.

"See that tree. It looks as though it did not belong there. I call that tree Gratitude. Many years ago I ran across a poor homesick girl. She was sick and penniless. She had the heartache and was daily growing more feeble. She was starving herself in the hopes that she might accumulate enough funds to rejoin her family. The effort was too great. The doctor got the accumulation and the poor girl grew worse. Seeing her plight I advanced her the necessary funds to go home. Then she grew stronger. One day she went

to the woods, dug up a little tree and mailed it to me. It was only a few inches tall then. Now it is immense. I would not cut it down, though. It serves me as a monument of one poor girl who tried to show me that she appreciated what I had done for her.

"Yes, that old plant should be cut down and replaced. But it was brought to me by old Mrs. Green. It had been her pride. One day she brought it to me. Here take it and care for it. I want some one to have it who will care for it properly, I no longer can. Poor Mrs. Green passed away. That plant still lives. It is a trust that has been imposed on me and I cannot fail. I know it is now an eyesore.

"Yes, that little plant in the pot. It is true that is common. But every Christmas without fail it has bloomed. The old man that raised and gave it to me is no more. Every Christmas when it was in full bloom I took it to his only daughter to remain in her single room until it was through blooming, then I took it home to care for it for another year. The last time I took it to her was in the hospital, and now she, too, will see it bloom no more.

"Those plants were grown from seed sent in a letter from a friend from across the seas and proved to me that though thousands of miles away her kind thoughts were with me. Don't you, too, appreciate kind thoughts.

"Many of these plants that seem so much in the way, were planted by Him. I could not dig them up. They seem of comfort me and He seems to be with me when I am near to them. It brings back to me memories of a sweet companionship that is no more and never will be. When I work amongst those particular plants, kind and willing hands seem to help me. I seem to hear pleasant words and see genial smiles. My work seems to lighten and my heart to fill once more. Yes, that plant over there was the last one He planted. I had admired it and He surprised me by planting it in the garden on

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my birthday. It was His last birthday gift. "But then let's talk of things more pleasant to you. All of these plants and shrubs have their story. So many good people in the world love the old lady that they bring her seeds and bulbs and keep her supplied with cuttings.

"Here, have a flower for your buttonhole. I do so love that flower, and some day when I have passed on see that they plant that bush on my grave."

#### **SUCCULENTS NO. 4**

##### **Echeveria**

This genus of Crassulaceae is sometimes included in an old genus, *Cotyledon*, founded by Linnaeus. However, following Dr. Rose in the *Flora of North America* we are keeping its identity. From the gardener's standpoint it is quite distinct. Most of the group are Mexican, one from Texas and one or two from Central America. They were named by De Candolle in honor of a Mexican artist. Among them are our finest rosette types of succulents.

##### **Echeveria Weinbergii (Rose)?**

This species becoming quite common in southern gardens was first disseminated by a local dealer under the above specific name. It is probably a good species but I have not been able to trace its publication in current literature.

A very charming plant with outstanding merits. It seems to thrive under most disheartening conditions and always puts its best foot forward. For an *Echeveria* it is quite a rambler, the rosettes frequently trailing a foot away from the main clump. The stem is procumbent, the rosettes held obliquely upward. The leaves are arranged in a tight spiral the phyllotaxy being quite high. In shape they are narrowly obovate the tips extended to a blunt point and gently reflexed, concave above, carinate below. In color they are creamy, greenish-white and tinged with pink and with a scanty bloom. I have not seen the flowers, but judging from other species they should be quite pretty. A native of Mexico.

Easily propagated by cuttings or by cleanly snapping off the leaves at the base and inserting them for about half their length in a sandy soil, when a new plantlet will form where it was broken off. All of the *Echeverias* produce many fine, hairlike rootlets at the leaf scars and I find that plants having this character revel in light air-filled soils.

... HARRY JOHNSON.

September 23, 1925.

#### **SAWDUST IN SOILS**

Referring to a paragraph in *Western Florist* of October 15th, concerning sawdust: A teamster contractor near me beds his horses and mules with sawdust and hauls the manure and cleanings on my land. What is the effect and the danger in using such manure?—Subscriber, Houston, Texas.

Light soils do not show harm of constant applications of sawdust and shavings as soon as heavy soils, but in the end such material will ruin any soil. In the rather heavy soil on the E. H. Rust Nurseries at South Pasadena the use of this material was followed until the soil was harder than any soil known to Southern California. Roots refused to enter it if there was even an inch or two of other soil on top and would spread out over the surface on top of the old soil containing sawdust. Strong rooting shrubs and trees would almost stand still in this soil, but when they once pushed through it, about a foot deep, they took on new life. Every year conditions grew worse, until the use of sawdust and shavings had to be given up, for on plots where none had been used all classes of plants thrived and the soil became more friable each year of use. Others have had similar experiences.—Southern Florist.

Do you know that if you plunge heliotrope in a bath of water immediately after you pick it—wet it all over, blossoms and all—leaving it immersed for two or three minutes, and then shake off the water, it will keep for several days in a vase?

## Miss Sessions Visits William Robinson

By the kindness of Mr. J. E. Elliott of Point Loma, I had a letter to Mr. William Robinson of Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex, England. Through correspondence the date of my visit was arranged and on June 28, from Victoria Station, London, I began what proved to be a most delightful trip. The distance, about 35 miles, through a charming rural section of rolling hills and cultivated vegetable fields. Gravetye Manor comprises 1000 acres of encircling wooded hills, the side sloping gently to the valley and lake therein. The house and extensive gardens are situated on the northern slopes facing the south. Above the terraced gardens a fine block of Austrian pines, 25 to 35 feet high, have been grown by Mr. Robinson. The stone house of good size, with small gables in the roof, was built in 1596, and its surface so beautifully covered with lichens of many shades, it was a picture of beauty, indeed. The gardener said, "But you should see those walls after a rain." The high slate roof showed clumps of stonecrops at many a place—and the low roof over a small garden porch was fairly gay with stone crops in browns and greenish grays and yellow blooms.

My cordial welcome was in keeping with the generous beauty all about and we were soon looking over the plants and especially noting the California wildflowers in bloom. Among the fine collection of Rock plants the *Convolvulus Mauritanicus* and the Mexican Daisy was one of my pleasing combinations, so I was sure of that happy sympathy in color, with Mr. Robinson.

A fine group of heathers and beds of azaleas on the sloping hillside showed such intelligent planting and care. The climbing tuberous perennial scarlet *Nasturtium* has so daintily festooned itself over the nearby shrubs, and all the plantings seemed so well located for the best of results.

The interior of the house was as interesting and attractive as the exterior. The walls all panelled in oak, each room with an individual fireplace, the bedroom doors each named and with its special knocker. The living room, study and hallway with artistically arranged flowers in beautiful dishes—the few roses, full blown, floating on water in shallow colored glass bowls; small but beautiful flower pictures on the walls.

The luncheon in the dignified and spacious dining room was finished with luscious peaches and strawberries from his own glass houses.

Discussing the flower books I had been selecting in London, I told of engaging the

GARDEN ILLUSTRATED magazine, Mr. Robinson's own work for fifty years, but the set was short two volumes. I asked his assistance in securing them and finally the fact that he would part with his own personal set complete and bound was modestly advanced. So I asked for time to consult the bookdealer for a release of my order, which they very graciously gave and so in a few days the Robinson set was paid for and shipped to De Lau & Co. to be reboxed for the long journey via Panama Canal to its new home with The San Diego Floral Association.

The illustrations of this work are so very fine, the records of new plants and their first history, makes the books of great value to all plant and garden lovers and students and should be of much profit. Mr. Robinson's constant advice for more naturalistic planting and grouping of plants after many years had its influence on the gardens of England and we will do well to read over those fine editorials and heed their advice for our growing city.

On the way to the train he showed me his high wall-enclosed orchard and vegetable garden, the fruit trees the best that I saw anywhere, so well trained against sunny walls and so well pruned were the trees in the open.

On a distant slope I was shown two plantations of California's fine forest trees, the Douglas fir and the *Abies grandis*. Trees planted 21 years ago and allowed to grow naturally without special care. They were evidently the pride of his forest.

Mr. Robinson, though crippled by paralysis, and confined to a wheelchair is not enfeebled by his four score years, but plans and directs the care of his estate and gardens with an interest and vigor that was very inspiring to me, and since reading *Gardening with Brains* by Henry Fink, I feel assured that an interest in growing things, a hobby of gardening, in San Diego in particular, means health, joy and longevity for every one.

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### WHAT THE SOUTHERN MAMMY SAID TO HER "HONEY CHILD"

"Jo an' Sambo can't do it all,  
Though they plough an' hoe with all their might.

Yet we'll have our crop in de Fall,  
'Cause Somebody walks in de corn all night!"

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People and plants are classified with the same test. By their fruits ye shall know them.

## IS THE EARLYBIRD ALSO AMONG THE PROPHETS?

I AM. I predict at least a normal season's rainfall from now on, cutting out all reference to or bombast about, the quite unprecedented fall of early October, which came unexpectedly by any of us, and at this writing, November 20, is almost as if it had never been, especially with the hot dry desert weather of the last few days, and it is this very weather that makes me so sure of what is going to happen.

I base my prediction upon a look back of over a quarter of a century. The weather was just as now, but in my then location we called it, a Santa Ana, and its power for unpleasantness there was raised to Nth degree. I had recently come to Southern California and with other raw material had acquired forty acres in the Bolsa district, then a swampy, bumpy grassed plain near the sea, now cultivated to the last inch. We learned that this tract should be broken, a proper term because the process was much like taming a broncho, so we loaned an empty house and went down there with six horses. A neighbor rented us a breaking plow, one that had seen better days, but still a killer. The driver drove, and behind him walked an assistant who operated leavers. The ground was briskly uneven, the lever ratchets from much use had become tired and at every superior hummock, a lever let loose and every third time caught the driver on the side of the head and brought him to earth. A day of this had worn the nerves of both operators to a frazzle and when they got to the deserted cottage and the team was unharnessed and fed, the other chap went straight to bed, that is, he took off his coat and shoes and got under a blanket, he had a severe chill and that Santa Ana howled coldly and dismally outside. I got the evening meal, tinned salmon with soda biscuits, coffee and canned milk, and right now I can taste the sand in that salmon. Finally I also shed my boots and felt the bumps where the levers had bullseyed and blew out the lantern and lay down. It was bright moonlight, there seemed to be nothing outside but the moon and this awful wind which found every crack, and there were lots of them. In the infrequent lulls the other chap's shivers registered and I began to think of home and mother. I was too tired to sleep, but lay there wondering how any one could be such a fool as want to break land in the Bolsa and doubting whether it would be any good when broken. I suppose I must have half dozed, when I started up at a sort of tearing sound, the room was quite light and my bed seemed to have moved, any way I was much nearer one wall than I judged I had been when I entered it, still I

did not appear any further away from the other, then again that tearing, rending with a note of rustling and I jumped to the floor any one could be such a fool as to want to as the wall paper entire walked out of the corner after me. Of course, in a minute I understood that the darned wind and the dryness had bested the paste and was shoving the thing my way, but if you want real jazz, wake up some night and find yourself chased by the wall of your room.

That season we had nice rains.

Now comes this wind, and papers have come unstuck and rattled, I have had the same feeling of, What the — is the use about everything. Two folks called who had motored down in the wind from Long Beach and they admitted they fought the whole way. Therefore I am sure with these statistics before you, you will be willing to agree with me, that as it rained that twenty-five years ago after the Desert wind, it may do so again after a similar beastly visitation this year.

### SAINTPAULIA IONANTHA

Also known as the Usambara Violet. Frequenters of the conservatory in Balboa Park will remember there some years ago a very attractive small plant with quite fleshy leaves and deep blue or purple flowers resembling violets, this is the plant mentioned here. Being a native of South Africa this plant should flourish in San Diego, just why it disappeared from the Park is not known by the writer, but it is more than possible that it should not have greenhouse treatment with us. It comes readily from seed treated like the Gloxinias and also can be propagated with leaf cuttings. Bailey says the plant can be flowered the entire year. In its native habitat it grows in wooded places in fissures of limestone and granite in rich light soil.

### PLANTING REGAL LILY

By Walter S. Creech.

Those who would enjoy the charm and grace of this queen of the garden lilies next July, should plant the bulbs now. Choose a well drained location in the perennial border, among the dwarf shrubs, or in open beds, where they may be left permanently.

Dig deep and see that the soil is well pulverized. Plant the lily bulb a good six inches down so that there will be at least four inches of soil above the top of the bulb.

A rich soil is not required. Keep stable and commercial manures away from these bulbs. A little leaf mold as a mulch on top of the soil will provide sufficient food.—Better Gardens.

# The Nov. and Dec. Gardens

## THE FLOWER GARDEN

By Miss Mary A. Matthews.

This is a month when all hardy shrubs can be planted. Make the hole in which they are to be placed large enough and give a thorough soaking when they are put in. Those that are very dry when received from the nursery, as they often are, should be put in water 'till they are thoroughly moistened.

Clean off all flower beds that are finished, give a good dressing of manure, also lime and ashes will help to lighten the soil.

In cleaning off beds where hardy herbaceous subjects are planted, it is best to cut the dead stalks, for if they are pulled out you often injure the next season's crop.

Continue to plant bulbs not already set out. Tulips should all go in to give a long season for growth, as a well developed foliage growth is essential in producing good bloom.

All seedlings, well started, can be put into permanent locations, so as to receive full benefit of the winter rains.

Watch for cut worms, slugs and snails. Among the newly planted things it is often a good idea to put a ring of the poison bran mash around very choice subjects.

Continue to sow sweet peas, annual larkspurs, candytuft, mignonnette, single hollyhocks, which are much more decorative than the doubles, for early summer blooms.

Calendulas can also be put in and will give blooms in the late winter, which is a time when our gardens are apt to be bare of brilliant spots.

Now is the time to plant Tritomas, the torch lily, or often called "red hot poker". There are some very distinct kinds of these among the newer ones, but they require to be planted in masses for best effect, as should also be the Hemerocallis, or the "day lily". The old Fulva, a tawny yellow, is not desirable, but the Flava, or lemon lily, and the everblooming Var. Florham, are both good and have the added quality of being fragrant. Also the improved Montbretias, summer blooming, are very good, coming in pure yellows and scarlets, and are two inches or more across. Give them good cultivation and divide often as they increase rapidly.

## THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

If we have not had another good rain between the writing of this article and the time you read it, do not delay longer in a pretty thorough soaking of the garden. Our wonderful early rain got away down so do not spoil the full benefit by allowing any dryness of the upper soil. Weeds have had a wonderful chance to grow, don't let them rob the soil of plant foods and moisture. Keep the hoe and rake busy, the exercise is good for both you and the garden.

Seed potatoes are very scarce this season and potatoes of all kinds are dearer than they have been since the war. If you have a warm spot put a few in. The British Queen is a good variety, White Rose is practically not to be had. Cut seed to two eyes and plant five inches deep in well manured land and about 12 to 18 inches apart.

Continue the planting of all hardy vegetables for succession of crop. Keep on the lookout for snails, slugs and aphids. Calcium Arsenate and Bran or Slug Slugger ready for use, are good for the first two pests, and Black Leaf 40 or Nico Dust for the last named.

It is still good season to renew the old lawn, the process is simple, rake surface thoroughly, getting rid of devil grass runners and rubbish lodged in surface of old lawn, and sow white clover at the rate of about one pound to 400 or 500 feet of surface. For particulars look up California Garden for September.

In the flower garden continue to set out Anemone and Ranunculus bulbs, the flowers will come in the spring and with proper care they will bloom into early summer. Plant in a fairly sunny location or where the sun breaks through most of the day, soak bulbs for several hours and plant 2½ inches deep and 8 to 10 inches apart.

Easter Lilies, Lilium Regale, Daffodils, Jonquils, Hyacinths are all seasonable now and will make a quicker start if planted before the ground gets too cold.

You can now sow your Winter Blooming Sweet Peas and get them through to blooming time in the spring with much less trouble than planting them in September.

Many strong bedding plants of annuals and perennials are available now and weather conditions are particularly favorable for planting.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

# The California Garden

Editors  
L. A. Blochman  
Alfred D. Robinson

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## The San Diego Floral Association

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### EDITORIAL

We have received from a valued correspondent this extract from a letter from the East:

"Our garden is not as spacious as California gives room for, but I keep a corner of it for the flowers of the poets. I have my Keats corner and my Shakespeare bed and my space for bulbs and other Greek Flowers which I call Hellenica. I am, you see, incurably the flower lover and the poet lover still."

The transmittant adds, "One might enlarge upon this and perhaps awaken a NEW THOUGHT in gardening."

We accept the task of enlarging, but the idea is as old, as Shakespeare, anyway, and probably Adam and Eve started a memory garden when they got settled outside.

A quarter of a century ago John Kendrick Bangs went into detail as to the objections to founding a Poet's Corner on the Houseboat on the Styx, and the question arose there because of a report by Confucius of the sight that greeted his eyes when he visited the Club with an Emperor of China, here it is: "Omar Khayyam stretched over five of the most comfortable chairs in the library, and when I ventured to remonstrate with him he lost his temper, and said I'd spoiled the whole second volume of the Rubaiyat. I told him he ought to do his rubaiyatting at home, and he made a scene to avoid which I hastened with my guest over to the billiard-room and there, was Robert Burns trying to write a

sonnet on the cloth with chalk in less time than Villon could turn out another, with two lines start, on the billiard table with the same writing materials."

Now we quote from this classic because we consider there are two sides to this question, but before going into our side it might be as well to say, that The Houseboat on the Styx is a real book that gives a most interesting account of life across the Styx which we accept as authentic, for lack of experience.

There are two main reasons for the existence of the special plots in gardens confined to the subjects mentioned by Poets when poetizing, or in the Bible or Shakespeare or those things presented by or in memory of friends or connected with particular events in the plotters life. The first is the greater affection for the Poet, etc., than for the garden and the second is to have a hiding place for those things we don't want but cannot well get out of accepting.

The eye of the poet seems so often to focus on the technical faults in gardening, he loves to make the woodbine climb where the gardener knows it should not, he always mixes up the rose with other things that the rosarian deems mere weeds, he sings delightfully but his forte is the pen, not the rake or the hoe. Of course there are lovely garden bits in the poets. The first meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, now nearly twenty years behind us, was much edified by the spirited rendering of that brief classic about the little flower in the cranny wall, and who does not know the Ivy Green that pulled down walls and strangled oaks but so far as we know, the poets have not been gardeners, with the result that an assembling of the growths they mention in a small plot might be interesting, but it would not be gardening.

We have known several attempts at Memory gardens, we once assisted at the birth of one of short inglorious life, but have never known one that was not uncomfortable to behold and a chore to maintain, several had to wear tags so that the owner could find out what this and that was supposed to throw upon the mind's screen.

A famous gardener in this state has a special plot with a family likeness to those under discussion, but he calls it a Trial Garden, it is away behind a greenhouse and a fence and a hedge and the path to it is a maze, to traverse which calls for a guide or a map. In here he first puts all those new things that the introducers insist on his trying, and no glory of description avails to skip this preliminary trial. In here things grow, or don't, till a verdict can be safely rendered and then some go into the garden, and lots go over the fence into the boneyard, and it is awful how that boneyard fills up. Some such plot should be in every garden of much pretention and it should be shown to every plant salesman.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

We take it that it is part of the office of this magazine to be the advocate of the garden, not that we fail to recognize that gardens should be made for man not man made over for the garden, and so it seems necessary to keep on harping on a garden scheme that will make the grounds round a home a harmonious whole and not a series of unrelated plots, not even good all but one little corner. In spite of the inferred spaciousness of California Gardens in the quotation from the Eastern Lady, they tend to be small on the average, because of the lack of rain through a long summer, further they have a wide-open-to-the-world specification that brings every bit of them in the eye of the world, so perhaps they need a plan more than most. The approved method of subdividing leaves not even a blade of grass as a starter so that all over gardening is requisite.

Those are our sentiments about little gardens within big ones, but they are for general application, we would spoil the best garden scheme ever evolved to let the children have a plot, or mar one of Ruskin's best lines of beauty to let grandma be in the sunshine and plant her geraniums and herbs and things of long ago. Further if a Poet's corner would make a gardener out of—Well, a bridge fiend or a golf bug, we would have one. We have never had much faith in the Shakespeare plot, the very name is uncertain of spelling and you know he did not spend much of his time down in that quaint little cottage, the Shakespeare devotee won't have the gardening flare, now if it were Bacon that is another matter, he wrote a lot about gardening, sound technic too, even if he fails to give pages of spraying formula and had not Planet Jr. to help him weed.

Finally, to the one who sent the suggestion and her friend with the Poets' plots, we render thanks for the helpful idea and knowing they will go ahead just as they please, we are pleased to have them do so, but we offer this. Keats and Shakespeare and the rest did not garden, at least of record, they simply in the days work mentioned certain plants, now there is a man in this new United States who has written about an hundred plants where they mentioned one, in fact, if there is a plant he has not put down to date, he will corral it in the next edition of his monumental *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, and we are trying to save up forty dollars to get it when it comes; we refer to one, Bailey, of course he is not dead, but Time will correct that. Why not a Bailey plot and then the whole vegetable catalogue is possible? Doubtless many other Godfathers and mothers for garden plots will come to mind. Would it not be funny, though quite appropriate, if Europe were starting Sessions gardens, Rock gardens by preference.

## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The annual Berried Shrub and Seed Pod Exhibit was held on Tuesday afternoon, November 17th, at the Floral Home in Balboa Park. The hall was very artistically decorated with branches of shrubs, many of which were sent in for that purpose from the splendid specimens in Balboa Park.

The Floral Home kept its hospitable doors open from 10 a. m. until after 10 o'clock at night. Tea was served by the House Committee to the afternoon visitors, and, after the regular monthly meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m., coffee and cakes were served.

The meeting was called to order by President Blochman, who then introduced Mr. John G. Morley, the first speaker of the evening. Mr. Morley's very interesting and instructive talk on Berried Shrubs is printed elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Alfred D. Robinson then spoke on Seed-pods in general, and the three-winged seed-pods of the Begonia in particular. Miss Sessions rounded out the program with an informal chat on seed-pods and shrubs—particularly some very beautiful shrubs which she had seen on her recent travels. Of seed-pods Miss Sessions made this brief and pithy statement: "It is easier to tell what family a plant belongs to by its seed-pod than in any other way."

## VISITING THE CAMPBELL CHRYSANTHEMUMS

On Wednesday afternoon, October 28th, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell invited the Floral Association to visit their beautiful gardens on Point Loma. The Campbell estate comprises sixteen acres located on a picturesque hillside overlooking the bay, and is laid out with terraces and winding pathways leading through one lovely garden-spot after another. One of the delightful and unusual features is the metal name-plates with which the various trees and shrubs are provided.

A very artistic and interesting Japanese garden, a lath house filled with beautiful begonias, fuchsias and ferns were some of the lovely spots en route to the crowning glory of the estate—the magnificent chrysanthemum gardens. When I say that there were six thousand plants, of one hundred and seventy different varieties, it may give some idea of the quantity, but not the quality of the display—for that is something mere words cannot describe. The outdoor garden was a riot of color, and contained chrysanthemums of many different varieties—from the tiny, button-y pom-poms to the large, raggedy cactus types, and from the daisy-like single ones to the great full, round sort we usually think of when the word chrysanthemum is mentioned. This last type was the one which predominated in the enclosed garden. This garden was in the form of a house with mus-

lin walls and roof, and was filled—literally crammed to capacity—with absolutely perfect blossoms, just one to a plant (except in rare cases where three buds had been allowed to remain.)

Every variety was grouped together in a neat square bed on which a numbered label served as identification. The blossoms were, almost without exception, far superior to the usual so-called "florist" chrysanthemums. Great snowy balls of the purest white, fully nine inches in diameter, and lovely two-toned ones of gold and deep red—palest lavender, vivid pink, canary yellow rich mulberry tints, and glowing bronze and copper shades were a few of the colors represented in this truly wonderful display.

Mr. Campbell's gardener was on hand in the chrysanthemum house, and was very courteous and helpful in answering questions and giving advice.

The San Diego Floral Association is extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell for the opportunity of seeing this lovely garden, and congratulates them on the wonderful results they have achieved.

L. G. R.

#### THE SEDUMS

With the growth of interest in rock gardens there has come a greater appreciation of the Sedums or Stonecrops, many of which are among the best of the rock plants. The number of Sedums is large and their habits are varied. It would be possible to have flowers in the garden almost the entire summer by the use of Sedums alone, for *Sedum acre*, also called Golden Moss and occasionally Wall-pepper, blooms in June or July, while *S. spectabile* closes the season, remaining in flower until late September, with several other species coming between.

*S. acre* is peculiarly well suited for rock work, being a very low growing perennial, spreading in tufts. The bright yellow flowers entirely cover the plants, making a solid bed of brilliant color. The plant does not spread fast enough to become a nuisance.

*S. spectabile*, frequently called the Showy Stonecrop or Live Forever, is quite different in character. In fact, it is not to be classed necessarily among the rock plants. It grows a foot in height, and sometimes becomes even taller. It, too, makes tufts which gradually extend in size until large clumps are attained. It is especially effective when grown as an edging in front of a long border. The plants, with thick leathery leaves, are attractive all summer, but are really beautiful when the pinkish or rose colored flowers appear in broad flat heads. Several variations of the type are now being sold, some having flowers

which are almost red. This species of *Sedum* is perhaps the most useful for general cultivation, and is to be recommended because it will grow freely in almost any situation.

Perhaps one other species, *S. Sieboldii*, should be especially mentioned, because of its gray leaves, which turn pink in the autumn and which give the plant a distinctive appearance.—Horticulture.

In Europe horse hoof parings is valued as a fertilizer. They are no longer plentiful since the introduction of the automobile, but quantities may still be obtained in some localities.

When you or your husband goes fishing do not feel badly if you catch only sharks or stingrays. Take them home along with the good fish. Cut or grind them up and mix with the soil of your favorite plant. It makes the finest fertilizer there is, and supplies nitrogen and phosphates to the soil.

## Gladioli!

Make your first plantings now in Southern California. Keep right on planting, to have a succession of bloom thru the season. Glads. will brighten your garden when all other flowers are out of season. We have a large assortment of *Primulinus* varieties and they will throw from two to five blooms in a season from one bulb.

## Dahlias!

Order now for early delivery and to be sure of securing stock that has already been acclimated.

Remember we sell no bulbs or tubers except those that have been grown at least one season right here in San Diego.

Complete cultural directions with each order.

## Ralph F. Cushman

GLAD—DAHLIA GARDENS

Cor. Plum and Xenophon Box 5-A  
Point Loma, Calif.

—is the place to get them.

## Berry Producing Shrubs For Garden and Park Planting.

John G. Morley.

Shrubs that produce berries are very decorative to plant in our gardens and parks. I believe that they are all hardy in this climate.

The largest family is the *Crataegus* or Hawthorns, as they are commonly called, and are natives of Europe, America and Asia,—the largest number are native to the northern and eastern sections of the United States, of which there are over 600 known varieties, compared with 60 varieties in Europe. Many of them are small trees in their native habitat, however, those grown in gardens in California are either shrubs or grown as such. They generally bloom in May or June and in the fall are covered with their seeds which resemble a berry, altho botanically they are classed as pomes with structure similar to an apple,—color of fruits is chiefly red or orange.

Hawthorns are fine for hedges as well as for shrubs in the garden. Only a very few varieties are grown in California, the best of which are *Crataegus Lalandi*, which at this season of the year is covered with orange colored berries, producing a charming effect. It grows tall and scraggy, but is very decorative. It may be pruned severely to keep it dwarf and compact for planting in low shrubbery borders, when it produces large crops of berries that are very effective.

*Crataegus Carrierei* is a garden hybrid of French origin, with berries similar to the preceding variety. It is a small tree,—in California it is grown only as a shrub and has proved very satisfactory wherever utilized.

*Crataegus Crenulata* is a very fine variety, with an immense crop of light red berries at this season. On a recent trip to Beverly Hills, Ventura, and Santa Barbara, I noted this variety was especially beautiful this year, as all the bushes were covered with berries in abundance.

*Crataegus Pyracantha*,—this is a red-berried hawthorn and has been grown in California more extensively than any other variety we grow, and as soon as ripe is quickly denuded by the birds. This variety is effective grown as a small tree, shrub, and for hedges for which it is very useful.

Cotoneasters are shrubs native of the temperate regions of Asia, Europe and Northern Africa, and at this season of the year are very beautiful with their large crops of berries or pomes similar to the hawthorns. There are several dwarf or trailing varieties which are extensively used for planting in rockeries or on the edge of walls. The two most popular varieties are *Mycophylla* and *Horizontalis*, and are covered with small red fruits in the

fall.—they are very pretty throughout the year as the minute foliage gives them a characteristic and charming effect which no other trailing plant possesses. They thrive luxuriantly in California and deserve to be planted extensively.

*Cotoneaster Simonsii* is a red-fruiting variety and is very extensively used in the northern sections of the state. It thrives well in Southern California, although not so popular as some other varieties.

*Cotoneaster Acuminata* is an erect growing variety with small, light green foliage and the main branches along the stem are covered with bright red berries. This variety is almost unknown in our gardens, but I can highly recommend it, having grown it for twenty years.

*Cotoneaster Franchetii* is a very pleasing variety and one of the best to plant. The foliage is of a yellowish white and tomentose beneath,—upright growth with spreading branches and covered at this season with orange red berries.

*Cotoneaster Panosa* has been more extensively planted in this vicinity than any other variety. It is a beautiful erect growing shrub with spreading branches and covered at this season of the year with immense quantities of red berries,—cut branches covered with berries are very decorative for the house, especially in the holiday season.

*Cotoneaster Augustifolia*,—this variety more closely resembles the hawthorn than any other,—it is frequently called *Crataegus Augustifolia*. It has large thorns,—the fruit is an orange-yellow and hangs on the bushes from early fall to late string.

There are several other varieties being tried out in California and from reports received, they will be a fine addition to our gardens.

*Heteromeles Arbutifolia* (California Holly) is one of the most beautiful native shrubs of California, and is called the "Christmas berry". This popular native shrub with its red berries at the holiday season deserves a place in every garden. Years ago the hills and canyons in the state were literally covered with these fine shrubs,—today, in many localities, they have disappeared owing to the destruction by irresponsible parties breaking them down to procure berries during the Christmas holidays. Thanks to our legislature, we have now a law on the statute books that will curtail to some extent these depredations. More of these beautiful shrubs should be planted in our parks and gardens.

It is pleasing to note that English Holly is being acclimatized and grown more exten-

sively in Southern California and as the bushes mature, we will undoubtedly have these beautiful berried shrubs in our gardens as they have in the Coast regions to the north.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*), several varieties of which are native to the Pacific Coast and Arizona, are a very pretty native shrub, producing white berries, and would be a very charming addition to our gardens.

*Viburnum Tomentosum* (Snowball) is very beautiful in the Eastern states in the fall, with its bronzy brown foliage and shiny red berries. I often think at this season of the year of the large groups of this variety I have seen in Franklin Park, Boston,—covered with these beautiful berries, and wish that we might have the same success with them in San Diego.

*Lonicera* (honeysuckle), the shrubby varieties produce very pretty berries in the early fall. They have not, for some reason, been utilized in this section. Twenty years ago I made an extensive planting in the Los Angeles Parks,—the only variety that fruited was the *Lonicera Morrowi*, though not as luxuriantly as in the Eastern states.

**Eugenias.** The *Eugenias* are one of our finest small trees,—they may be trimmed to formal shape, used as shrubs and also as hedges. They produce fruit in small bunches in red and rose color and somewhat resembling a berry,—the fruit is edible and used for jellies and jams. The varieties planted in California are the *Eugenia Myrtifolia*, *E. Hookeriana*, *E. Jambos*, and the *E. Uniflora*. The two most popular varieties in this vicinity are *Eugenia Myrtifolia* and *Eugenia Hookeriana*.

**Raphiolepis** are low growing shrubs from Japan and China and are classed as one of the best garden shrubs to plant in California. In the spring they are covered with white fragrant flowers succeeded by their black colored berries or seed pods on the *Raphiolepis Ovata* and pink flowers on the *Raphiolepis Indica*.

**Nandina Domestica**,—a very pretty shrub, a native of Japan and is a favorite wherever it is well grown. The terminal trusses of white flowers are very distinctive and in the fall produces a very pretty red berry that is very effective. Taken together with the beautiful foliage, flowers and fruit, it is one of the finest of garden plants.

**Arbutus Unedo**,—tree or shrub, native of Ireland and Southern Europe, and is commonly called the Strawberry tree. In California it is grown as a shrub and is very popular both for the pretty white flowers and also the fruit, which is round, and when ripe the color of a strawberry, hence the name. The fruit is rough and warty, about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, hangs in bunches of three to seven fruits, and the fruit is very good to eat when fully ripe.

**Manzanita**, a beautiful shrub or small tree native of the mountains of California. It has pretty panicles of whitish flowers in the spring, succeeded by bunches of fruit resembling grapes, but more commonly called Manzanita berries. The fruit is edible and makes delicious preserves.

**Duranta Plumieri**, a small tree or shrub, native of the West Indies and from Mexico to Brazil. This shrub has been extensively grown in Southern California. It is of rapid growth and useful for large mass plantings,—blooms continuously throughout the year in panicked loose racemes, succeeded by bunches of yellow berries which hang on the branches for an extended period and are very decorative, as the shrub will be in bloom with its pretty blue flowers and a crop of berries at the same time. It will not stand much frost. There is a white flowering type that is also very pretty and is known as *Duranta Plumieria Alba*.

There are many other shrubs that produce berries during the year, but are not so popular as those described, however, as our floriculture develops, we shall have other interesting species added for the beautification of our gardens.

#### THE SEASONAL BULB MEETING

On Tuesday afternoon, November 3rd, the Annual Bulb Exhibit and Distribution was held at the Floral Home from 2 to 5 o'clock. Close to one hundred were in attendance, and, owing to the generosity of those who had donated their extra bulbs for distribution, no one who cared to take them went home without several of their favorite bulbs.

Mr. Westergaard, of the Rose Court Floral Company, gave a very interesting and instructive talk on cyclamen, gloxinia and caladium bulbs—telling the various likes and dislikes of these plants, what sort of fertilizer to give them, when to let them rest, how to propagate, etc.

Miss K. O. Sessions was the other speaker of the afternoon, and she told most entertainingly of the marvellous caladiums she had seen in Florence, the cyclamens in Switzerland, and then gave a resume of the charm and beauty of the bulb flowers which were exhibited at the Heemstede Flower Show in Holland. These included hyacinths, jonquils, daffodils and tulips—both the early and late flowering varieties.

In referring to the culture of tulips and daffodils here in our San Diego gardens, she advised planting the bulbs at least six inches deep in soil which had been well worked and thoroughly wetted for six or eight inches below the line of planting; bulbs of *ranunculus*, *anemones* and *freesias* should be soaked overnight and planted only two inches deep, while the iris, which has a running root system,

*Continued on Page 13*

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

# THE LATH HOUSE

By Alfred D. Robinson.

I have never been able to find out just what the readers of California Garden want in these articles. Conversation with them seems to spread the range over so wide a territory that anything might suit somebody, and so I feel a liberty to ramble considerably. It is told of Mark Twain that he undertook to make a ten minute extemporaneous talk on any subject that might be given him, he was challenged, and given a topic with which he was supposed to have no acquaintance, perhaps the Epstein theory. He began at once, "The Epstein is a very good theory, and that reminds me of a story," and he filled in the rest of the ten minutes with the story. I never allow this incident out of my mind, certainly not in matters connected with this magazine and it is so comforting, in the back of my mind I hear Evan Williams singing, "Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and say unto her, that her iniquity is pardoned." And now I can go on talking.

So many times I have spoken of a bit of glass as part of the lath house that finally I persuaded myself, and I have been and gone and done it. Like every one else, I had a section of the lath house that would not fit in the scheme, paths ran by it, plants and humans avoided it and rubbish filled it and claimed it for its own. Regarding it with disfavor for the millionth time, a long delayed vision arrived and covered it with a glass roof instead of lath, and this very day men cunning in the ways of glass finished the job. That is on the roof, but I am getting ahead of the story and won't last out my ten minutes unless I am careful. Now this section was over against the solid side, visitors to the Rosecroft lath house will remember it as the part they could not enter, and they may as well know that the true reason for their barring was the one given, that there was nothing there, and the removal of the lath left a space sixteen by forty-eight feet roofed by timbers spaced three feet apart, with solid ends and one wall and open to the lath house on the other side, except for three big posts. I had boasted to my helper that we would just put up the roof ready for the glass in a day or two at the most, but it took nearer a week, as additional posts had to go in both sides and a lot of stiffening and lining up was indicated, finally the rafters for fourteen inch glass were fastened to a two by four strung over the stringers that formerly held the lath. That is as far as the matter has gone, but the intention is to wall up the main lath house side with hardpan for from three to four

feet, disguise the wooden posts with more hardpan and finally create hardpan arches between the glass and the lathed sections, to be filled with removable windows if experience indicates their placing. So much of detail is given because it is desired to make clear what is sought, which is not a glass house in the ordinary conception of that term but a rain protected section of a lath house into which the maximum of sun can penetrate during our so-called winter months. No provision for heating is now considered because, the now deceased Celloglass proved last winter that with very few exceptions Rosecroft can bloom Begonias perfectly without it, if the rain and the wind can be shut out and the sun and air let in. It is not only for the growing of winter specimens that this or a similar arrangement is wanted, but it is imperative for the handling of the Rexes, especially for seed. These Begonias, particularly the finer sorts, are now in flower and the main seed harvest is in November and December. Further the leaves for propagation are most successfully handled in April, May and June, which calls for the growing of leaves for cuttings during the winter months, and this cannot be done in the drip of the lath house.

I do not want to hear about the cases of leaves put in in other months than these that have grown, for some leaves have grown for me every month in the year, but the percentage of failures becomes larger as the season retreats from these three, in either direction. The hardship of the matter lies in the fact that under ordinary and straight lath house culture the favorable months show the fewest mature leaves. Of leaf cuttings put in sand with bottom heat during October and November, over half have already signified their dislike of the effort by dampening off and unless I am in for an agreeable surprise most of the other half will follow along. It may be of interest to know that an experiment shipping Rex leaves back to New Jersey for propagation, was quite successful, the recipient starts them in water, as most folks do Coleus, and possibly there may be a method of doing this to the satisfaction of the doer and the done, but I have not yet found it. A description of the result of my trial would not be fit for publication. Another effort with the cuttings in straight moss was more encouraging, but the best bet of all was the placing of the cutting in May right in the ground in the lath house under a spraying system. These plants

have merely made a growth of from three to have just been potted up and they are the best for their age, yet, and a large percentage grew. It would seem only fair to give a note of warning, for the conditions were exceptional, in that both the soil and the situation were the warmest to be had. I spend so much time on Rexes because there seems to be an ever-growing interest in them which has been immensely stimulated by the Rosecroft seedlings.

Other things that will go under that glass roof are Verschafelti, these are already making bloom stalks but the drip under lath plays havoc with their handsome foliage. Gilsoni, the only double fibrous, is another, and then that fairly large group of low growers, the Manicatas, Feasti, Bunchii, etc. Last month was given a list of sorts that could be profitably tried out for real winter blooming so that it is needless to do it again. In all this matter I wish it understood that I am feeling my way, this glassed bit may prove a mistake but frankly I think it will be a WOW.

Most of the tuberous are now packed away in sand and this year before doing so I lightly dusted with sulphur. Don't forget that these tubers should be frequently inspected during the winter and especially if stored in a dry place.

Returning to that glass section I want to emphasize that I do not expect to put under it large specimens that will be used for display next summer, that is in the tall fibrous, nor such as Ricinafolia, they want a winter's rest and have been on water allowance for a month to get them as nearly dormant as possible.

It is not too late to make up baskets of the Manicata section. Feastii, Mrs. Townsend, Bunchii, Manicata plain and Aurea and the Cristata variation all are at their very best in baskets. Try also some trailing Lobelia in baskets, it is stunning. There is a variety with a white eye that has the habit.

Unless it rains and rains hard keep watering in the lath house so things don't wilt, and that reminds me the sprinkler is going in mine, and I must close this.

#### GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES A COMING BUSINESS

Christmas tree crops, raised on plants especially set aside for the growing of evergreens, seems to be a coming business, say forestry officials of the United States Department of Agriculture. Although Federal foresters do not feel that the use of Christmas trees is either a menace to the country's timber supply or incompatible with forest conservation, they point out that the practice of growing small evergreens especially for the Christmas trade is far better than cutting them in an indiscriminate manner.

## PLANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

If you have a sunny corner, protected from the wind, we can plant a tropical garden that will attract attention. Nearly everything will attain full growth the first season. We have on hand a good selection of "Out of the Ordinary" tropical plants, and a barren corner can be transformed into a Tropical jungle in a few months. Let us call and talk it over.

### The National Fernery

1223 E. 18th St., National City  
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Headquarters for Fertilizer, Leaf Mould and Plant Soil.

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G. E. Barrett. "15 years in the Tropics"

In 1925 spruce and fir trees commonly sold for \$1 to \$3 and more on the streets of the larger eastern cities. Retail prices have increased several hundred per cent in the last 15 or 20 years and high prices are likely to prevail in the future. Growing Christmas trees in plantations near large consuming centers is beginning to look like an attractive business. This is particularly true for centers in the Eastern and Middle Western States, which are rather distant from a natural source of supply. Several such plantations are already in existence from which trees have been sold at prices ranging from 50 cents to \$1.50 each. In a plantation adjacent to a main road it seems probable that the trees could be sold right on the ground to people passing in automobiles.

Spruces and firs, where they can be grown, are the logical choice for planting, because they are the most desired as Christmas trees and command the highest prices. Since the trees will be grown only for from five to eight years after they are set out, they can be planted at the rate of 5,000 to the acre.

It is doubtful, says the department, whether Christmas tree plantations would at present yield satisfactory financial returns in the South and the far West because of the abundant supply of small evergreens found in the forests of those localities.

## STRAY THOUGHTS

## THE IRIS INVASION

**Soap Suds.** A strange subject for a Garden Magazine, I hear the captious reader say. They, the suds, are a valuable fertilizer for all plants, whether growing in the garden, or in pots. They contain a lot of valuable plant food, soluble, and readily available for the digestive organs of plant life. Gentle reader, if, when you have your laundry work done at home, see to it that the plants growing in, and around your house, are treated to this nourishment, instead of allowing it to go to waste in the sewer. To do this, will require a bit of work, but unless you love your plants well enough to give them this attention, you need never hope to be a success in the art of gardening. No great excellence without great labor, applies to the work of the gardener, as it does to any other vocation in life.

**Snail Vines.** An apt common name for the pretty flowers of *Phaseolus caracalla*, a native of India. The plant fits into our gardens with remarkable ease. The flowers are curiously twisted, of large size, delightfully fragrant. When young they are a mixed color, blue and white, the white turning yellow with age. In warm, sunny situations, and protected from chilling winds, they are evergreen. This virtue is no advantage to the blooming character of the plant. If cut to the ground annually, the strong tuberous root sends up vigorous growth, and for covering pergolas during our long, sunny summers, it is a joy, a delight, both to the eye, and to the sense of smell. Some seasons it seeds freely, the next year never a seed will set.

Time was when it was plentiful in this Southland. For reasons unknown to the writer, it has almost entirely disappeared. That it may be brought back again and become one of the conspicuous plants of our gardens, seeds will be sent to the California Garden for distribution, as the management may deem best.

**Snails and Slugs.** War on these pests may be successfully waged, by the use of Corrosive Sublimate. To be technical, when asking for the chemical, use the phrase: Bichloride of Mercury. An ounce of it is enough for 20 gallons of water. Sprayed on the ground where they abound, and there is no garden exempt from them in all this Southland, it is sure death to the creatures, and destroys their eggs too. A solution as weak as here named will not injure the foliage of plants, and is sure to burn the "feet" of the snail which climbs trees. Two applications is generally enough to rid a garden of them for two years. In my own garden, thus treated, ten years ago, never a one of them has appeared since. Keep the thought in mind when using the stuff, that it is a deadly poison.

PETER D. BARNHART.

Signs are not wanting that shortly we shall all be talking Iris as we have Dahlias the past year, in fact lots are doing it now. There is one thing in Iris culture that is persistently ignored or forgotten in general directions, and that is once having planted, to leave them alone for several years. They will not bloom satisfactorily till they have crowded each other up on the surface of the soil. Directions to thin out and reset every two, three or four years are misleading. Probably in our climate when the rhizomes are actually exposed a mulch of some sort will be beneficial. This is advice straight from an Iris bed with thousands of plants in it. For two years it was given the best California cultivation, that is irrigated and cultivated endlessly, and not one in a hundred bloomed. Then it was left alone, absolutely, the only attention being to pull the largest weeds and turn on a sprinkler three or four times, it responded with scores of blooms. The next year more careful neglect with weeds and grass in variety, result hundreds of blooms. Following season, greater inattention from the humans, more from the weeds, thousands of blooms.

Lost, somewhere in Southern California, between November 14th to 20th, probably on the highway near Escondido, one perfectly good and much needed rain.

## BULB SHOW

*Continued from page 10*

should be set barely under the surface of the ground; amaryllis bulbs should not be even completely covered—"leave their shoulders out", was Miss Sessions' original and graphic formula of planting all bulbs of the amaryllis family.

In closing she cited the names of several bulbs which are well adapted to our local conditions and are most satisfactory in every way: The agapanthus—both the blue and the white varieties, the Scarborough lily, the pink belladonna lily, the oxalis purpuria and oxalis bowei, the nerine Japonica, the Regal lily of China, the snowflake and the English bluebell. Of this last named bulb Miss Sessions had very kindly brought a number of specimens for distribution.

Both Mr. Westergaard and Miss Sessions, at the close of their talk, requested the audience to ask any questions regarding the care of these various plants, and were most helpful in answering and explaining the whys and the wherefores in each case. All in all, it was a most instructive and entertaining program, and one which could not fail to be of benefit to all those who were privileged to hear it.

L. G. R.

## SOME WORTH WHILE PERENNIALS

Among the perennial plants that are eminently suited to our climate I believe the gaillardia ranks first when we consider that it can be had in bloom during the entire year.

We are growing a recent introduction named "Portola", which is a remarkable improvement. The flowers are of a large size, borne on long stems and are for the most part of a rich, bronzy crimson. The flowers retain their beauty for several days making it an excellent cut flower. A vase shown at the Spring Flower Show in Pasadena came in for a lot of attention. Another perennial that proves a success here when afforded partial shade is *Geum coccinea*, "Mrs. Bradshaw", a yellow variety, "Lady Strathedon" is proving an unusually fine plant. *Anchusa Italica*, "Dropmore Variety", is not grown as extensively as its merits warrant. The forget-me-not shade of blue and its tall, branching flower stems make it invaluable for the flower border.

It succeeds in sun or shade. It comes quickly from seed; seed sown during the summer will make flowering plant for the following spring. For warm, sunny situations I find *Geurbera Jamesonii* is very suitable, as it is almost constantly in bloom. There are some fine colors among the new French hybrids, and they last well as cut flowers. I believe failure with gerbera only occurs when the crown of the plant is below the surface of the ground.

*Rudbeckias* are too well known to need special mention; but this year we have a variety named "Autumn Sun", a single form of brilliant yellow which has a wonderfully decorative effect at the back of the borders.

A dwarf marguerite has come to my notice and it is living up to its reputation (as advertised). It is after the order of the well known Paris Daisy, with innumerable quantities of small anemone-like flowers. The ray petals are pure white, the center of the flowers a mass of quilled creamy white petals after the order of the variety "Mrs. Fred Sanders", but only a fraction of the size. It makes a wonderful flower for table decoration, or for small baskets when arranged with *gypsophylla* or *statice*. It seems to flower continuously. Its dwarf habit makes it suitable for edges of beds and borders.

*Salvia leucantha* is an indispensable perennial where one requires to brighten up the borders during the fall months. Its violet purple and white flowers are borne in profusion from August to December. The plants stand the sun and flowers last well when cut. In large masses in front of shrubbery it is very effective.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

Pasadena, Calif.

# RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP



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## SYNTHETIC STABLE MANURE

Woolgatherer has on several occasions referred to the fact that the Rothamsted Experiment Station in England, discovered during the war period, a method of making the equivalent of farm yard manure without keeping animals. The formula at first used, did not prove entirely satisfactory and a new one was adopted. Usually, Rothamsted publishes all its discoveries, but in this case it presumably offered an opportunity for ensuring an income that would materially assist the work at the station. In consequence, the new substance was called Adco and a firm under took to manufacture and distribute it. The output of Adco which is a gray powder, has now assumed vast proportions in Gt. Britain, both farmers and horticulturists using it to break down vegetable refuse, straw, etc.

The American rights for making and selling Adco are in the hands of the American Adco Co., Philadelphia. Dr. F. M. Lawrence of that city became interested in the Rothamsted experiment and we believe that it was through his influence that Adco has become available to horticulturists and farmers, as a home made product, instead of its being imported.

In connection with the making of artificial stable manure. Dr. Lawrence has written several articles which have appeared in the *Gardeners Chronicle* and other journals and from one of these we venture to quote a few of the most important paragraphs, as they make clear just what Adco is capable of.

"For a long time we have known that manure is the result of a biological process, the product of micro-organisms working on a mixture of animal and vegetable substances; but nevertheless we have continued to fork straw in and out of stables under the impression that it was the only practical way to attain this result. The Rothamsted scientists found another and, perhaps, a better method. They developed a substitute for the animal matter, worked out a process by which it is made available for the bacteria, and in the end were able to procure an artificial manure which is chemically and in fertilizing power fully equal to the stable product.

"The importance of this discovery to agriculture can scarcely be overstated. Manure is, after all, the great fertilizer. It has virtues peculiarly its own. It not only provides nitrogen and phosphorus, but it introduces into the soil the organic matter, humus, and the bacteria which make available the plant foods already there. Its effects on the texture and water holding properties of the soil are equally important. For certain crops, and particularly in dry seasons, these charac-

teristics are even more important than its fertilizing value.

"There never has been enough manure; and since the advent of the automobile and the tractor, stables have been replaced by garages, and the supply of manure steadily dwindles. So this discovery comes at an opportune time. It makes it possible for every farmer and every horticulturist to make his own manure in any quantity he wishes. The possible supply is practically without limit. The only prerequisites are some kind of vegetable waste, such as straw, corn stalks, dried leaves, bracken, garden cuttings, an adequate supply of water, and a definite proportion of this chemical pabulum for the bacteria, now known as Adco reagent. This last, the substitute for animal matter formulated at Harpenden, affords sustenance to certain micro-organisms always present in straw or dust, and these by their activities convert the vegetable matter into a true manure.

"In actual practice this process of making artificial manure is quite simple. It consists in building up a stack, one layer at a time, wetting each layer and scattering over it the reagent, until a pile about six feet high is completed. This stack must have a flat top so as to hold water, not shed it. Within a week or so fermentation begins, as is evidenced by the development of heat; and every three or four days for the next two weeks the pile is again thoroughly sprayed with water. After that it practically takes care of itself, and in three or four months rots down into an excellent manure. As was said, this is chemically almost identical with barnyard manure and fully its equal as a fertilizer. Moreover, this artificial manure—remember, it is real manure, not a chemical substitute—has some distinct advantages over the stable product. It is odorless, does not draw flies, is quite free from weed seeds and disease spores, does not leach out on exposure to the weather and introduces no acid into the soil."

From the above it is apparent that dead leaves, straw and general vegetable refuse becomes not merely decayed by the Adco treatment, but is actually akin to manure that has been fermented and rotted down. To all intents, the treatment digests vegetable matter and ferments it at the same time, so that the finished product made from straw, closely resembles animal manure in appearance.

Furthermore, by using Adco the gardener or grower can make up hotbeds of straw and leaves and generate the same heat as stable manure. An average bale of straw weighing around 160 lbs. will, with some oak leaves,

make a hotbed sufficient for an ordinary frame and generate a temperature as violent as 150 F. if allowed to.

Under the circumstances it would seem as if Adco is likely to fill a much needed want in America as it has in England. Invaluable as chemical and general fertilizers are it is a truism to say that nothing outclasses the old fashioned dung. It may on analysis, show low degrees of fertility, but that does not alter the fact that it will, on most soils, and in conjunction with other fertilizers, produce results that no other combination can equal. Since artificially made stable manure contains practically the same elements as the animal products, it follows that it can be used in the same way.—The Florists Exchange.

### TULIP PLANTING

Do not delay any longer in getting your Tulips in the ground. The great fault with many amateurs is that they do not plant their Tulips soon enough. They dislike to tear up the border where some late blooming annual may still be flourishing but all delay after the middle of October is placing a serious handicap on the bulb which you expect next spring to make your garden a show place.

This is particularly true of amateurs who dig and store their own bulbs. With new planted stock, which is just coming in, there may be no harm from delay for usually that kind of stock has been so treated that a later planting will not materially effect it. My experience has been that many amateurs dig and store their stock of Tulip bulbs too early, that is, before the bulbs have been properly ripened, so that in the fall when they get ready to replant, they will find many of their bulbs soft.

The best thing that can be done for a softening bulb is to get it into the ground as soon as possible and even then the trouble may have proceeded too far to save it, but I have had bulbs, before I learned my lesson of early planting, that were quite soft but after being in the ground hardened and produced flowers the next spring.

Another trouble amateurs may experience is that when they get ready to plant their Tulips the bulbs which have been stored over summer not only show a softening but also may be covered with a small insect. This is the Tulip aphid and will destroy the bulb eventually. If you have such a pest on your bulbs give them a good washing in heavy soap suds and get them into the ground as soon as possible.—Better Gardens.

Some Dahlia growers claim that by placing ground tobacco stems in the furrows or holes when the tubers are planted, will not only produce better blooms, but will also effectively dispose of green or black aphids, which

attack Dahlias in the fall, and which some persons call "lice". It is claimed the contact of the Dahlia bulb with the tobacco stems, causes a pungent aroma which the aphids cannot stand.—Better Gardens.

### WHEN POTTING PLANTS

The first thing of importance in this phase of culture is to prepare the pots. They must be perfectly clean, and the provision for drainage must be efficient. It is, of course, true that the amount of water demanded during the winter months will be small, but it is necessary to see that there can be no danger of the slightest stagnation, or failure is sure to ensue. Therefore, have one good crock over the hole in the bottom of the pot, and put around it in such manner that the passage of water will be facilitated, two or three other pieces, and cover with coarse moss or a little of the rougher parts of the compost which, it will be remembered, it was suggested should be mixed two or three weeks in advance of actual use.

In potting, firmness is desirable, but ramming in with a potting stick must be deprecated, as it prevents the satisfactory extension of the roots. The soil ought to be pleasantly moist when used, and it should be kept in that condition subsequently.—"The Home Gardener."

### TREE LEAVES

During the last 10 years it has been found increasingly difficult to obtain stable manure at reasonable cost, and quite a number of gardeners have had to resort to other measures to help the soil. The value of leaves has become more appreciated, and these, if collected in the autumn as they fall and stacked, will be ready for digging in a few months hence. Every owner of a green house knows full well the necessity of having a supply of leaf mould, as well as the leaves for plunging in pits and frames. Oak leaves are specially good for this purpose, and no opportunity should be lost in obtaining what may be possible.—Garden Illustrated.

Keep your house plants free from dust. Wash them occasionally out doors with a hose and allow to sun for a while. Do not wash with oil. Some people have been advised to do that and have killed off valuable plants by so doing. Oil, besides filling the pores and preventing the plants from breathing, also accumulates dust.

Supply a support to your sweet peas early. If allowed to twine without a support they will begin to die off at the ends and once stunted they will never be as good as they might have been.

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